Leslie Robertson, violist

Winner of the 1988 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Competition for the performance of Canadian Music.

accompanied by

Gail Niwa, piano

Monday, 12:00 p.m.

October 17, 1988

Convocation Hall
Old Arts Building

Program

Department of Music
University of Alberta

Programme

Sonata Rhapsody for Viola and Piano (1962)	Jean Coulthard (b.1908)
Variations Opus 11 (1967)	Jacques Hétu (b.1938)
Sonata for Viola and Piano Opus 11, No. 4 (1922)	Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

Program Notes

Sonata Rhapsody for Viola and Piano — Jean Coulthard

This piece was the "required repertoire", Viola, for the 1988 E-Gré Competition. The composer has written this note: "The title explains the improvisatory and indeed virtuoso style of the piece - a veritable tour de force. The dramatic 'Allegro con Forza' demonstrates the chamber qualities of the instrument though relieved, of course, by lyric passages. 'Interlude in May' is much gentler - written one perfectly beautiful early summer (in appreciation of my garden). 'Allegro con Brio' the final movement rounds out the work with a wild rhapsodic finish."

Variations, Op. 11 for Solo Viola — Jacques Hétu

This piece was the "required repertoire" for the 1977 E-Gré Competition. At that time the composer supplied the following analytical note: "The work consists of a theme and five variations. The theme, marked 'sostenuto', itself very ornate, take the form of an ascending and descending melodic curve. The first two variations preserve the underlying spirit of the theme, while contrasting the upper and lower registers of the solo instrument. The third variation, somewhat more elaborate, takes the form of a 'Scherzo' -in fact there are two variations in one - trills and tremolos in the 'scherzo' and repeated notes in the 'trio' section. The fourth variation, very calm, treats the theme polyphonically; the last variation, an 'accelerando e crescendo', leads to an abridged and final statement of the theme.

Sonata for Viola and Piano Opus 11 No. 4 — Paul Hindemith

This highly ingratiating work consists of a fantasy followed by a theme with seven variations, which are divided so as to give the sonata three movements. Despite the constant relentless modulations, the feeling is distinctly tonal and the progressions occasionally suggest modal influences.

Leslie Robertson

Violist Leslie Robertson, a native of Edmonton began her musical studies at the age of 3½ years and following high school graduation, she took up the viola. From Mount Royal College in Calgary, she went on to study with Gerald Stanick at the University of British Columbia. Ms. Robertson is a recent graduate of the Curtis Institute where she worked under Michael Tree and Karen Tuttle and is currently studying at the Juilliard School as a scholarship student in the Master of Music degree program.

Ms. Robertson has participated in many competitions and festivals. As soloist, she has appeared with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, The University of British Columbia Symphony, the Johannesen International Festival Orchestra, and the Calgary Philharmonic Ensemble. Maintaining a special interest in chamber music, Ms. Robertson is actively pursuing a career in this field.

Gail Niwa

American pianist, Gail Niwa, winner of the 1987 Washington International Competition for Pianists, made her orchestra debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the age of 8. She has since performed with several symphony orchestras and given solo recitals in numerous major centres in the United States.

A native of Chicago, Ms. Niwa was a student of Eloise Niwa before being accepted on scholarship to the Juilliard School in 1977. She received her Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School in 1982 as a student of Adele Marcus. Her recent achievements include winning prizes in several international competitions. During the summer of 1988, Ms. Niwa performed as soloist with the Banff Festival Chamber Orchestra while participating in the Summer Residency Program at The Banff Centre and she is currently active as soloist and chamber musician in the New York area.